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adherence to them, and speculating as to changes both in principle and in practice that are advisable. The subject is not handled as a matter of case law, even where, as in the case of maritime law, it is susceptible of such treatment. Somewhat over a hundred cases, largely American, are cited, but the collection does not apparently purport to be substantially complete. It follows that to the active practitioner the book will have little value, and the same thing is true for the student of the subject. But to the beginner, and to the lawyer who would obtain a general view of this subject in a readable and reasonably concise form, the book will be very welcome. Its style is pleasant and smooth, and the presentment, with its slight British bias, clear and comprehensive.

Some very interesting problems are discussed, of which we may mention the question as to the power of common-law courts to protect private property of the inhabitants of conquered territory from executive confiscation incident to the acquisition of the territory. It is believed, however, that the author is mistaken in thinking that in such case "the law of the nations is, by an article of the Constitution" of the United States, "part of the law of the land" (p. 20). But his contention that recent English decisions on the point were ill-advised, and that in such case the courts should adjudicate upon private rights in accordance with the principles of international law, though admittedly without common-law support, is strongly urged, and worthy of consideration.

A. R. G.

THE MECKLENBURG DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE. By William Henry Hoyt. New York and London: G. P. Putnam's Sons. 1907. pp. xv, 284. 8vo.

In the last few years interest has again been aroused in the moot case of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence by the discovery of fresh evidence bearing on the controversy. There seems no doubt that the patriotic committee for Mecklenburg County, on May 31, 1775, passed a set of resolutions which were in effect a contingent declaration of independence. But since 1817 an energetic effort has been sustained to force general belief in a more formal and unconditional declaration, asserted to have been pronounced on May 20, 1775, in language strikingly similar to the federal Declaration. Here, then, is the crux of the matter. Was there a separate declaration on May 20, whose spirit was softened in the May 31 resolves, or was it the latter resolves which were recalled and written of incidentally as a declaration of independence?

In favor of the existence of the earlier declaration there are alleged copies and circumstantial evidence. Dr. George W. Graham, in his book published in 1905, found in the more recently discovered evidence new grounds for supporting this view. Mr. Hoyt has reached the opposite result — one that to the layman seems the more reasonable. It would not do to say that he has written the last word on the question, but it will probably be the last word of moment until irrefragable documentary evidence comes to light. No existing clue seems to have been neglected by Mr. Hoyt. His spirit is that of the impartial judge, his logic is convincing, and his style is clear and readable. The exposition should be interesting to every student of American history. H. S.

THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA. By Sir Courtenay Ilbert. Second Edition. Oxford: At the Clarendon Press. London and New York: Henry Froude. 1907. pp. xxxii, 408. 8vo.

The author of this book brings to his task exceptional qualifications. At one time he was law member of the Council of the Governor-General of India, and he is at present Clerk of the House of Commons, so that both from familiarity with Indian affairs gained by personal experience, and from acquaintance with British legislative and administrative ideals, he can speak with authority.

The purpose of the book is to show the necessity for consolidating the English statutes relating to India, and to show in what way it can be done. The first chapter contains an historical introduction, covering some hundred pages and yet much compressed. The author has written solely from the view point of one interested in constitutional law; and it is necessary to have some knowledge both of English and of Indian history in order to understand and appreciate his work. The same criticism may be made of the summary of existing law that follows. But a careful reading presents forcibly the necessity for consolidating the various enactments. That it is possible to do so Sir Courtenay Ilbert proceeds to demonstrate. He has collected all the statutory enactments relating to the government of India, arranging them in convenient order according to the principles adopted in preparing consolidation bills for presentation to Parliament, and he has added explanatory notes. This work is largely based on the consolidating draft of 1873, which he has brought down to date. If the British government sees fit to pass a consolidating act, this work will be of unquestionable value. Even if consolidation is not enacted, it should be an almost invaluable handbook for Indian administrative officials. It is also of interest to the student of comparative law, legislation, and administration.

S. H. E. F.

LEADING CASES ON THE LAW OF EVIDENCE. By Ernest Cockle. London: Sweet and Maxwell, Ltd. 1907. pp. xii, 224. 8vo.

The title should be "Leading Cases on the English Law of Evidence," since English cases alone have been selected. At the head of each case is a short statement of the principle to be illustrated, then follow the facts and that portion of the opinion which deals with the point at issue. To this the author usually adds a footnote of comment or explanation. Such an arrangement is compact and clear. On the other hand so little of each case is given that the reader cannot tell by examination whether the point is the sole, or one of several grounds for the decision. The index, however, is full and well arranged, and thus gives a fairly adequate summary of the subject. The scope and value of the book within its somewhat limited field would be greatly increased if each leading case were followed by a reference to those English cases wherein it has been cited, explained, or distinguished.

E. H. A., JR.

A TREATISE ON THE MODERN LAW OF BANKING. By Albert S. Bolles. In two volumes. Philadelphia: George T. Bisel Company. 1907. pp. lxxix, 508; 509-1124. 8vo.

A TRUSTEE'S HANDBOOK. By Augustus Peabody Loring. Third Edition. Boston: Little, Brown, and Company. 1907. pp. xxxvi, 224. 12mo.

SAMUEL FREEMAN MILLER. By Charles Noble Gregory. Iowa Biographical Series. Iowa City: The State Historical Society of Iowa. 1907. pp. xvi, 217. 8vo.

TRIAL EVIDENCE. By Richard Lea Kennedy. St. Paul: The Keefe-Davidson Company. pp. vii, 49. 8vo.

MANUAL OF CORPORATE TAXATION IN NEW YORK. New York: Fallon Law Book Company. 1907. pp. xv, 119. 8vo.

DIE KUNST DER RECHTSANWENDUNG. By Lorenz Brütt. Berlin: J. Gutentag. 1907. pp. 214. 8vo.

THE LAW AND THE GOSPEL OF LABOR. By Luther Hess Waring. New York: Neale Publishing Company. 1907. pp. 140. 12mo.

STREET RAILWAY REPORTS ANNOTATED. Volume IV. Albany: Mathew Bender and Company. 1907. pp. iv, 1218. 8vo.